

Lessons Last Sunday of Epiphany

3.2.25

Introduction: The season of Epiphany is about light and new understanding. In this last Sunday of Epiphany, we hear about light shining through Moses and then in the face of Jesus. It shows the connection of the ancient prophets with Jesus. In our time, we see this as a glimpse of the hope of eternal glory with God.

A reading from the book of Exodus

Ex 34:29-35

Moses came down from Mount Sinai, carrying the Ten Commandments. His face was shining brightly because the Lord had been speaking to him. But Moses did not know at first that his face was shining. When Aaron and the others looked at Moses, they saw this, and they were afraid to go near him. Moses called out for Aaron and the leaders to come to him, and he spoke with them. Then the rest of the people of Israel gathered around Moses, and he gave them the laws that the Lord had given him on Mount Sinai.

The face of Moses kept shining, and after he had spoken with the people, he covered his face with a veil. Moses would always remove the veil when he went into the sacred tent to speak with the Lord. And when he came out, he would tell the people everything the Lord had told him to say. They could see that his face was still shining. So after he had spoken with them, he would put the veil back on and leave it on until the next time he went to speak with the Lord.

The psalm for this morning is Psalm 99

Psalm 99

The Lord is King; let the people tremble;
he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion;
he is high above all peoples.

Let them confess his Name, which is great and awesome;
he is the Holy One.

"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool;
he is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his Name,
they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;
you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill;
for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

When we told you about the power and arrival of our Lord Jesus Christ, we were not telling clever stories someone had made up. But with our own eyes we saw his true greatness.

God, our great and wonderful Father, truly honored him by saying,

"This is my own dear Son, and I am pleased with him."

We were there with Jesus on the holy mountain and heard this voice speak from heaven.

In addition, we have a most reliable prophetic word, and you would do well to pay attention to it, just as you would to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

Most important, you must know that no prophecy of scripture represents the prophet's own understanding of things, because no prophecy ever came by human will. Instead, men and women led by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.